

Appln. No.: 10/521,530
Response Dated: May 20, 2008
Reply to Advisory Action of May 7, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended) A brake pad assembly comprising a brake pad and a guide spring for engagement with the brake pad, the brake pad including a main portion and a lateral guiding portion extending from the main portion, the lateral guiding portion including a stop surface and a radial extension, the guide spring comprising an end portion for engagement with the stop surface, the end portion comprising an axial spring force component with a sloped edge that is sloped in the axial direction, the guide spring further comprising a guiding channel having a depth for receiving the radial extension.

40. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 39, wherein the guide spring comprises a cantilevered spring arm that terminates tangentially inwardly over the guiding channel.

41. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 40, wherein the spring arm comprises a pair of V-shaped hinge portions separated by an opening and a central ramp portion extending between the V-shaped hinge portions, the central ramp portion forming a sliding surface that bends radially toward the guiding channel to allow the lateral guiding portion to slide radially over the ramped surface and into the guiding channel.

42. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 39, wherein the end portion of the guide spring comprises a contoured edge for engagement with the stop surface.

43. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 42, wherein the contoured edge comprises a convex edge.

44. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 42, wherein the contoured edge comprises an angled-off edge.

45-46. (Cancelled).

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47. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 39, wherein the guide spring comprises an elongated base having a first end and a second end, and wherein the guide channel comprises a first guide channel section extending from the first end of the base for receiving the brake pad, and a second guide channel section on the second end of the base, the second guide channel section being separated from the first guide channel section by an opening.

48. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 47, wherein the spring arm extends over the first guide channel section but not the second guide channel section.

49. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 39 further comprising a contact surface adjacent the guide channel, wherein a section of the contact surface is partially cut to form a flexible fixing clamp.

50. (Currently Amended) A brake pad assembly comprising a brake pad and a guide spring for engagement with the brake pad, the brake pad including a main portion and a lateral guiding portion extending from the main portion, the lateral guiding portion including a radial extension having three sides, the guide spring comprising an end portion having an axial spring force component with a sloped edge that is sloped in the axial direction, and the guide spring comprising a guiding channel having a depth for receiving the radial extension and surrounding the three sides of the radial extension.

51. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 50, wherein the guide spring comprises a cantilevered spring arm that terminates tangentially inwardly over the guiding channel.

52. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 51, wherein the spring arm comprises a pair of V-shaped hinge portions separated by an opening and a ramp portion extending between the V-shaped hinge portions.

53. (Previously Presented) The brake pad assembly of claim 50, wherein the lateral guiding portion comprises a stop surface, and the guide spring comprises a contoured edge for engagement with the stop surface.

54-57. (Cancelled).